

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating audio, comprising:
transmitting audio information segments on a first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes; and
transmitting a number of synchronization markers on a second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments, wherein the first signal line and the second signal line ~~are sufficient for communicating~~ are configured to communicate audio; wherein the audio is communicated devoid of a third signal line that carries data different from the audio information segments transmitted on the first signal line or different from the number of synchronization markers transmitted on the second signal line.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio data comprises a serial bit stream.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio information segments are unmodulated.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio information segments are representative of one or more audio channels.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format portion comprises a 32 bit data word.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes include at least one of a version number, an audio stream ID, an audio sampling rate, an audio format, and a sample width.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the audio stream ID includes an indication of an intended recipient of one or more of the transmitted audio segments.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes are dynamic.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes are configured to vary from one information segment to another information segment.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the synchronization marker include sync pulses.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each sync pulse represents a start of one information segment transmission.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating audio, comprising:

receiving audio information segments on a first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes; and

receiving a number of synchronization markers on a second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments, wherein the first signal line and the second signal line ~~are sufficient for communicating~~ are configured to communicate audio; wherein the audio is communicated devoid of a third signal line that carries data different from the audio information segments received on the first signal line or different from the number of synchronization markers received on the second signal line.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the audio information segments are unmodulated.

14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the audio information segments are representative of one or more audio channels.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the format portion comprises a 32 bit data word.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein each sync pulse represents a start of the one audio information segment reception.

17. (Currently Amended) A communication system including a data path configured for transferring audio data between a transmitting module and one or more

receiving modules, the transmitting and receiving modules being formed on a printed circuit board, the system comprising:

an encoder positioned within the transmitting module and configured to convert audio data requiring transmission into two-line audio information segments, ~~wherein the two-line audio information segments are sufficient for transferring audio data;~~

a data line having a first data line end coupled to a first data port of the encoder and configured to transmit the audio information segments, the audio information segments including (i) a format portion including at least an audio format indication and (ii) a data portion including data corresponding to the audio format indication;

a synchronization line having a first synchronization end coupled to a second data port configured to transmit a number of sync pulses each being indicative of a start of one of the audio information segments; and

a decoder positioned within the receiving module and having first and second receive ports respectively coupled to first and second data ports of the decoder, the decoder being configured to convert the received two-line audio information segments into audio data, wherein the two-line audio information segments are ~~sufficient for transferring~~ configured to transfer audio data; wherein the audio data is transferred devoid of a third signal line that carries data different from the audio information segments transmitted on the data line or different from the number of sync pulses transmitted on the synchronization line.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the transmitting and receiving modules are formed on an integrated circuit.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data line is configured for transmitting multi-channel audio data.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the format portion includes a 32 bits format word.